

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BELFAS 00148 101747Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20
MCT-02 SY-05 SYE-00 HA-05 /089 W
-----030117 120016Z /13

R 101522Z AUG 78
FM AMCONSUL BELFAST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1958
INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS BELFAST 148

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PINT, UK
SUBJECT: VIOLENCE IN NORTHERN IRELAND: RELATIVELY
COOL COMMEMORATION OF INTERNMENT

REF: BELFAST 147

1. THE REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT -- PRINCIPALLY THE PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN AND ASSOCIATED GROUPS -- HAS TRIED TO MAKE THE AUGUST 9 ANNIVERSARY OF INTERNMENT IN 1972 INTO A CELEBRATION AKIN TO THE LOYALISTS' JULY 12 ORANGE DAY. MARCHES ARE SMALLER SCALE, AND THERE IS A MORE OVERT POLITICAL CONTENT. THE CELEBRATION ALSO TENDS TO DEGENERATE INTO DRUNKENNESS AND VANDALISM.

2. THAT WAS THE PATTERN THIS YEAR, BUT IT WAS SOMETHING OF A FIZZLE, AND THE LEVEL OF ASSOCIATED VIOLENCE DECLINED. THERE WAS STONE THROWING, GASOLINE BOMBING AND SOME SHOOTING DIRECTED AGAINST POLICE STATIONS AND ARMY POSTS IN WEST AND -- TO A LESSER EXTENT -- NORTH BELFAST, WINDOW BREAKING AND A LITTLE LOOTING OF SHOPS, VEHICLE HIJACKING AND BURNING, BONFIRES (SOME OF WHICH GOT OUT OF CONTROL), AND MISCELLANEOUS HARASSMENT OF
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BELFAS 00148 101747Z

SECURITY FORCES AND PEOPLE WHO DID NOT PARTICIPATE. THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS TARGET WAS MP GERRY FITT, LEADER OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY. HIS HOUSE WAS ATTACKED AGAIN.

3. THE MAIN PARADE WAS IN BELFAST, AND THE THEME WAS THE MEN ON THE BLANKET AT THE MAZE PRISON. ONLY ABOUT 1,800

MARCHED. THAT IS MORE THAN THE PATHETIC FEW DRAWN BY PREVIOUS MARCHES DURING THESE MONTHS OF AGITATION, BUT NOT AN IMPRESSIVE NUMBER CONSIDERING THE SIZE OF THE COMMUNITY. ACTION IN OTHER CITIES WAS MINOR. NO ONE WAS KILLED OR SERIOUSLY HURT.

4. COMMENT: IN KEEPING WITH THEIR EXPLOITATION OF ARCHBISHOP O FIAICH'S STATEMENT ON THE BLANKET MEN (PARA SIX REFTEL), THE ORGANIZERS TRIED TO KEEP THE COMMEMORATION ON A MORAL PLANE AND TO DISCOURAGE THE USUAL HOOLIGANISM. THEY FAILED IN THIS. IF THE PEACEFUL ACTIVITY AND ORGANIZED VIOLENCE WAS THE MOST THE REPUBLICANS COULD DO THESE DAYS, SOME SAY THEY DID POORLY IN THAT TOO.

5. CORRECTION TO REFTEL: BELFAST 147 OMITTED ONE KILLING AND A BOMBING INCIDENT FROM THE CATALOGUE FOR JULY 19-AUGUST 7: A POLICEMAN WAS SHOT TO DEATH IN PROTESTANT-STRONG BALLYMENA AUGUST 2 -- THE FIRST POLICE MURDER THERE DURING THE TROUBLES -- AND INCOME TAX OFFICES IN LONDONDERRY WERE DESTROYED BY FIRE BOMBS THE SAME DAY.

STOUT

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS, CIVIL DISORDERS, POLICE FORCES, VANDALISM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BELFAS00148
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780329-0857
Format: TEL
From: BELFAST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780876/aaaacldy.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5fb35b65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BELFAST 147
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1773097
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VIOLENCE IN NORTHERN IRELAND: RELATIVELY COOL COMMEMORATION OF INTERNMENT
TAGS: PINS, PINT, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5fb35b65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014